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IP
107

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File

Project: IP-107

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: 25 April 1950

To: D/FE

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: Labor in South Korea

Statement of Project:

Origin: Internal (K-1668)

Problem: To furnish brief report on general situation of labor in South Korea

Scope: 300-400 words
Should include (a) degree of organization, (b) major labor groups, (c) communist infiltration

Graphics (if any):

Form: Memo (orig & 2)

Draft due in D/Pub: 27 April 1950

Responsible Division: D/FE

Dissemination deadline (if any)

0900 28 April 1950

Internal Coordination: --

Departmental Responsibilities: None

Classification to be no higher than: Secret

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

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25X1A

Restricted

Copy: D/FE

Project: IP-107

[redacted] file

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To: D/FE

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: Labor in South Korea

Statement of Project:

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1. Labor - Korea

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25 April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/Pub, ORE

ATTENTION : Mr. [redacted] 25X1A

SUBJECT : Request for Report

REFERENCE : Our Case #K-1668

1. It is requested that this office be furnished a very brief (approximately 300-400 words) report on the general situation of labor in South Korea, to include:

a. Degree of organization and major labor groups.

b. Degree of infiltration by communists.

2. There is an urgent need here for this information, and it would be appreciated if we could receive it by 0900, 28 April.

3. Mr. [redacted], extension 2710, is familiar with this request and may be called upon for further information, if necessary. 25X1A

25X1A

[redacted]

Acting Chief, Intelligence Support

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations (see separate sheet) should be used in the "To" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "To" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: ISB

25 April 1950

ACCESSION NO.

DATE RECEIVED IN S. A.

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
1. D/Pub, ORE Mr. [redacted]	25X1A				Cover to D/FE, 25 Apr 50
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
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10.					
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Note: The classification of this memorandum must be raised to conform to the classification of the draft it covers.

Date 27April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Transmission of Draft Report

ENCLOSURE: IP-107 "Labor Situation in Southern Korea"

(3 copies)

1. Enclosure is forwarded herewith for review and, if required, for formal coordination with the departmental intelligence organizations.

2. This draft report has been coordinated informally with the organizations checked below: None

Within CIA:

D/GI	☐	D/NO	☐
D/In	☐	D/LA	☐
D/Tr	☐	D/WE	☐
D/EE	☐	D/Ma	☐
D/FE	☐	D/EC	☐
D/NE	☐	Other ____	☐

Outside CIA:

State (OIR)	☐
Army (ID/GSUSA)	☐
Navy (ONI)	☐
Air (AID)	☐
Other ____	☐

3. Maps and/or Graphics to be included in this report and arrangements completed for their production by the Map Division or the Presentation Staff are as follows:

None

4. Comments:

25X1A

[redacted]

Chief,

D/FE

Division

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Labor Situation in Southern Korea:

At the end of the War, Korea was not prepared by tradition or experience to evolve quickly concepts or forms of western industrial democracy. In the post-liberation period two major so-called labor groups emerged.

The first major group, the All Korea Labor Council (AKLC), was a component of the Communist Party and although it contained within its leadership most of the few experienced Korea labor leaders, it was used as a Communist political tool and was gradually driven undergound. Its residual influence in the Korean labor movement and among individual Korean labors cannot be determined on the basis of available information. It undoubtedly has cells in the legal labor organization and local influence among workers, but there have been no significant labor strikes or sabotage within the past year which could be ascribed to Communist influence.

The other major group, the Korean Federation of Labor Unions (KFLU), was conceived by rightist political leaders in 1946 to counter the influence of the AKLC, to discourage labor unrest, and to serve the political interests of rightist groups. Although the KFLU made some progress under US Military Government along the lines of an independent labor organization, it remains essentially

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essentially under the control of both management and Government, sometimes identical, and serves only exceptionally the cause of labor.

The KFLU is composed of a large number of local unions which are generally organized by craft. There is, for example, no national stevedores union, but separate unions for this trade in both Pusan and Inchon. Workers in such trades as the railway and communications however, have unions organized on a national basis. Labor organization has been largely restricted to industry with little or no organization in commercial or among white collar workers. All unions are under the tight control of the Central Headquarters of the KFLU in Seoul. The KFLU was admitted to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in December 1949 and at that time reduced their claim of 3 million dues paying members to 800,000. Actual dues paying membership is probably closer to 150,000.

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